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22 April 1981

MEMORANDUM

Significant Events in OGSR

The Law of the Sea Conference and Policy Review. The Spring Session of the Law of the Sea Conference closed on 16 April with little progress on any important substantive issues. After some heavy criticism of the US for delaying the wrapping up of the negotiations while it conducted a policy review, many delegates spent much time speculating on how far Washington might go in this re-evaluation, and its likely impact on attaining a comprehensive treaty. In spite of US efforts to postpone the next Conference session until winter/spring 1982, it was decided to meet again this summer, and thus pressure the US into speeding up its reviewing process. Meanwhile back in Washington, the policy review has indeed gotten underway, but is proceeding very slowly.

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